

Houston-based firefighting company Boots & Coots has been synonymous with putting out some of the world's biggest oilfield fires. It specializes in providing pressure control services for oil and gas wells and employs about 700 people.

Post merger, Boots & Coots will be part of Halliburton's new product-service line that will combine its existing coiled tubing and hydraulic workover operations with Boots & Coots' well intervention services and pressurecontrol business

The acquisition will allow Halliburton, the world's second-largest oil services firm after Schlumberger Ltd. (NYSE: SLB - News), to offer a more complete portfolio of offerings to its clients by adding equipment and services to fight oil-well fires. The combined entity will be able to provide a complete array of intervention services across the globe.

Halliburton aims to retain Boots & Coots' management to lead the new division, keep the iconic Boots & Coots name, as well as majority of its 700-strong workforce. The company expects the deal to be accretive in the first full year of operation.

Houston, Texas-based Halliburton offers a variety of equipment, maintenance, and engineering and construction services to the energy, industrial, and government sectors.

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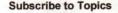
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#### Gulf oil well disaster could mean explosive profits for Halliburton

May 3, 11:26 PM Kansas City Business Commentary Examiner Romona



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Previous

The oil well explosion in the Gulf of Mexico could be a well-timed and profitable accident for Halliburton, the

global oil company with the famous connection to

former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney. Just eight days before the uber-Valdez accident, Houston-based Halliburton acquired Boots & Coots Services, also based in Houston, in a \$240 million cash and stock

Boots & Coots, which uses the graphic of a burning oil

services." In other words, when an oil well explodes,

problem. In a release, Jerry Winchester, Boots & Coots

president and CEO, says "Combining the resources of both companies creates the premier intervention

While Halliburton's timing of the acquisition could be

chalked up to luck, some members of Congress are

Halliburton provide all documents relating to "the

in the Gulf, according to a report in the LA Times.

asking questions. Reps. Henry A. Waxman (D-Beverly Hills) and Bart Stupak (D-Mich.), have asked

possibility or risk of an explosion or blowout" at the rig

In her recent speech delivered in Independence, Mo.,

Sarah Palin, mother of the "Drill Baby Drill" mantra

Convention, called the British Petroleum disaster

"very tragic." She went on to say she hopes the country will be able to "trust the oil companies,"

heard at the last Republican National

according to a Politico story.

well to represent the ampersand in its name, specializes in "pressure control and well intervention

Boots & Coots can step in and help remedy the

company across the globe."

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Halliburton, the firm associated with Dick Cheney, is perched to make a profit in the Gulf.

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As reported by Kansas City Political Buzz Examiner Jason Adkins, BP is engaging in textbook damage

control by taking responsibility for the accident and promising to make amends. Depending on how Congressional investigations proceed, however, it's possible elected officials will gauge the viability of their corporate alliances based on public outcry. If constituents aren't vocal enough, lawmakers might read a public willingness to at least pretend the iron fist still wears a velvet glove.

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## BP says Halliburton 'intentionally destroyed evidence' after Gulf oil spill

By Vivian Kuo, CNN updated 6:49 PM EST, Mon December 5, 2011

#### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Halliburton was a contractor for BP at the ill-fated Deepwater Horizon oil drilling operation

BP and its contractors have been locked in legal battles since last year

An explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon killed 11 and injured 16

The explosion led to more than 200 million gallons of oil being released into the Gulf of Mexico (CNN) -- BP is accusing Halliburton of having "intentionally destroyed evidence" related to the explosion aboard an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico that led to the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

The accusation comes in court papers filed by BP Monday in federal court in New Orleans as part of a lawsuit aimed at having sanctions imposed on Halliburton Energy Services Inc., which was a contractor for BP on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig. An explosion on the rig on April 20, 2010, killed 11 people working on the rig and injured 16 others. The explosion led to more than 200 million gallons of oil being released into the Gulf.

BP alleges in its filing that Halliburton destroyed evidence on cement testing and violated court orders by not bringing forth "inexplicably missing" computer modeling results.

"Halliburton has steadfastly refused to provide these critical testing and modeling results in discovery. Halliburton's refusal has been unwavering, despite repeated BP discovery requests and a specific order from this Court," the documents state.

"BP has now learned the reason for Halliburton's intransigence -Halliburton destroyed the results of physical slurry testing, and it has,
at best, lost the computer modeling outputs that showed no
channeling. More egregious still, Halliburton intentionally destroyed the
evidence related to its nonprivileged cement testing, in part because it
wanted to eliminate any risk that this evidence would be used against it
at trial." the BP papers say.

Further, the documents state that two Halliburton employees testified under oath about destroying notes and samples related to analyzing the stability of a similar cement mixture that was used in the failed oil well.

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Monsanto sued for poisoning farmers

### Monsanto sued for poisoning farmers

Published: 11 April, 2012, 20:37 Edited: 11 April, 2012, 23:38

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16.03, 21:21 15 comments



Members of the "Occupy" movement in the Midwest protest against Monsanto's agricultural practices in front of the Missouri Botanical Garden during the "Occupy the Midwest" regional conference in St. Louis, Missouri March 16, 2012 (Reuters/Sarah Conard)

TAGS: Health, South America, Law, USA, Corporate news, Agriculture

A lawsuit filed this week claims that the Monsanto corporation, "motivated by a desire for unwarranted economic gain," knowingly poisoned farmers that were pressured to use the company's chemicals.

Farmers from Argentina claim that agricultural giant Monsanto, along with Philip Morris and other major American tobacco companies, asked them to use chemicals on their crops that caused "devastating birth defects." The plaintiffs say that the corporations being included in the suit were aware of the implications but failed to warn the farmers, instead acting "by a desire for unwarranted economic gain and profit."

In the suit, filed this week at New Castle County Court in the state of Delaware, Monsanto, Philip Morris and others are said to have "wrongfully caused the parental and infant plaintiffs to be exposed to those chemicals and substances which they both knew, or should have known, would cause the infant offspring of the parental plaintiffs to be born with devastating birth defects." A 55-page complaint filed in court alleges that those chemicals caused conditions to develop that include cerebral palsy, epilepsy, spina bifida, congenital heart defects, Down syndrome, missing fingers and blindness.

Monsanto, who is no stranger to legal trouble, is named in the suit along with Altria Group fka Philip Morris Cos., Philip Morris USA, Carolina Leaf Tobacco, Universal Corporation fka Universal Leaf Tobacco Company and others.



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#### Organic farmers take on Monsanto over patent lawsuits

February 17, 2012 | By Dean Kuipers

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After years of taking farmers to court to assert their patent rights, agri-giant Monsanto Co.is being sued by farmers. Lots of farmers

Judge Naomi Buchwald heard oral arguments Jan. 31 in federal district court in Manhattan on OSGATA et al. vs. Monsanto, the latest courtroom action on a suit filed almost a year ago. Responding to what they say is a climate of fear created by Monsanto's long series of patent infringement lawsuits, a group representing as many as 25% of the nation's organic farmers (as well as other non-organic farmers) have sued the global biotech company to allow them to grow in peace.



Bottles of Roundup herbicide, a product of Monsanto, are displayed on a... (Jeff Roberson/Associated...)

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#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

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Monsanto's attorneys have asked to have the suit dismissed. Buchwald will respond by the end of March.

The innovative suit is brought under the Declaratory Judgment Act, which allows for a preemptive judgment that would clear farmers of infringement suits before they even grow their plants. The farmers are not seeking any money or injunction. Monsanto, represented by Seth Waxman, former U.S. solicitor general under Bill Clinton, has moved to have the case thrown out, saying it is "hypothetical" and "abstract."

The problem, say the 83 individuals and groups named as plaintiffs in the case, who claim to represent more than 300,000 farmers including many in California, is that Monsanto's transgenic plants (sometimes called genetically modified organisms, or GMOs) are contaminating organic crops, introducing the unwanted genetic material into their fields. In an ironic turn, the company has often responded by suing farmers for patent infringement, even if those farmers were desperate to keep that material out of the crops and, in fact, if their crops would lose their value because of the Monsanto genes.

"We've been farming organically for 35 years, and we're very concerned with being able to continue on with

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### Research Firm Blames Monsanto for Bee **Deaths So...Monsanto Buys It**

by Kevin Mathews | April 28, 2012 | 8:18 pm

Research Firm Blames

Monsanto for Bee Deaths So...Monsanto Buys It



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Monsanto, the genetically modified food giant, has recently purchased Beeologics, a leading bee research firm. Borrowing a move from the tobacco companies' playbook, Monsanto appears to have decided that if you do not like the scientific reports coming out about you, then you should just buy the

Beginning in 2007, Beeologics has researched two critical bee issues: colony collapse disorder and Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus. In late September of last year, Monsanto acquired Beeologics for an undisclosed amount. In making this purchase, Monsanto now has control of research that has previously pointed at its pesticides for contributing to - if not outright causing - a sharp decline in bee populations. Multiple studies in recent years have linked pesticides and high fructose corn syrup with colony collapse disorder.

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www.care2.com/causes/research-firm-blames-monsanto-for-bee-deaths-so-monsanto-buys-it.html



# The controversial Monsanto Protection Act

Why has Obama approved a law giving immunity to the production and sale of genetically modified food in the US?

Inside Story Americas Last Modified: 02 Apr 2013 12:29

It can be dificult to make an informed judgement on the safety of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) because of the impassioned reaction that greets each new study.

At the very least, there is general agreement that much more research is required on a case by case basis into any potential health risks of GMOs.

With that in mind, the European Union (EU) has strict controls over their use, while doubts persist.

But in the US, President Barack Obama last week approved a law giving the production and sale of GMOs and Genetically Engineered crops, immunity from court intervention, even if health risks do emerge.

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### Top senator apologizes for 'Monsanto Protection Act' after public outrage

Published time: April 02, 2013 16:00

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U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski. (Reuters / Jessica Rinaldi)

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The blowback caused by a new law that lets biotech companies like Monsanto escape litigation is so tremendous that a senior

Tags Agriculture, Law, Politics, USA

senator from Maryland has offered the public an apology.

US Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) has issued a statement expressing her regret for letting this year's Agriculture Appropriations bill — an annual continuing resolution spending act — be signed into law.

"Senator Mikulski understands the anger over this provision. She didn't put the language in the bill and doesn't support it either," begins a statement from her office dated Friday, March 29.

As RT reported earlier, President Barack Obama inked his name last Tuesday to the bill, H.R. 933, and in doing so signed off on a deal that essentially prevented a government-wide shut down. In doing as much, though, the president approved a provision that lets the companies that make genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and genetically engineered (GE) seeds step over legal hurdles in the future regarding lab-made products that may later be proven to be dangerous.

Included in the bill is a rider, Section 735, which says federal courts cannot intervene and halt biotech companies from planting and selling GMO goods to the public, even if testing proves them to be potentially hazardous to the greater public. Because the legislation largely shields agriculture giants Monsanto from litigation, it has been dubbed by its critics the "Monsanto Protection Act." But even after more than 250,000 people signed a petition asking the White House to intervene and ensure the bill was not passed, Pres. Obama nonetheless approved it last week.

#### Recommended



Obama signs 'Monsanto Protection Act' written by Monsanto-sponsored senator 539



'Monsanto Protection Act slips silently through US Congress 486



'Monsanto Protection Act' to be voted on by Congress 84



Monsanto plans massive biotech experiment in the US 43



White House refuses to reveal ties with Monsanto

Sen. Mikulski has served as chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee since last December when she inherited the role after the passing of Sen. Dan Inouye (D-Hawaii). In a statement released by her office last week, a spokesperson suggests that Mikulski likely wouldn't have let H.R. 933 end up the way it did had she ran the committee earlier.

"It was originally part of the Agriculture Appropriations bill that the House

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### Challenging Monsanto: Over two million march the streets of 436 cities, 52 countries

Published time: May 24, 2013 09:51 Get short URL



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Millions of activists around the world have rallied against Monsanto, the biotechnology giant for genetically engineering agriculture

Tags

Anastasia Churkina, Andrew Farmer, Biology, Corruption, Food, Global economy,

and food while suppressing negative scientific research.

Organized by the 'March Against Monsanto' movement, an estimated two million have

Globalization, Health, Information Technology, Internet, Law, Politics, Protest, Science, USA, WikiLeaks

taken part in the massive event on Saturday spanning six continents, 52 nations, and at least 48 US states.

"It was empowering and inspiring to see so many people, from different walks of life, put aside their differences and come together today," said Tami Canal, founder and organizer of the global event.

"We will continue until Monsanto complies with consumer demand. They are poisoning our children, poisoning our planet," she said. "If we don't act, who's going to?"

### Follow RT's LIVE UPDATES on the March Against Monsanto campaign

The day of protest has already ended in Europe, where thousands of activists in Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, Ireland, France, Malta and elsewhere took to the streets to protest against Monsanto abuses.



Stanimal032

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This #MarchAgainstMonsanto makes me happy. This is a huge issue that directly affects EVERYONE!

11:53 утра - 25 мая 2013 из: Chicago, IL. United States

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Earlier in the day, hundreds of demonstrators in Brisbane and Melbourne in Australia and across Japan and South Africa took to the streets to protest against the multi-national corporation and to demand a ban on Genetically Engineered and Genetically Modified Organisms (GE/GMOs).

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'Monsanto Protection Act might be repealed in Senate 94



Monsanto CEO trashes company's opponents over



Feds delay approval of new Monsanto crops over environmental concerns Angered by the lack of action from governments on the issue, activists in hundreds of cities – including New York, Chicago, Montreal, Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Moscow and Melbourne – will stage coordinated protests against Monsanto and demand a ban on Genetically Engineered and Genetically Modified Organisms (GE/GMOs).

Initially a small, grassroots event, the march became a globe-spanning movement through the efforts of local activists and environmentalists. The protest is being organized on Facebook and Google Documents, where users can find a list of events near their location.



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'Monsanto Protection Act might be repealed in Senate 81



Monsanto CEO trashes company's opponents over 'elitism' 107

Activists of the global environmental watchdog Greenpeace demonstrate against US biotech giant Monsanto and the commercial sowing of transgenic corn, at "Parque de los Venados" in Mexico

March Against Monsanto Director Nick Bernabe told the Natural Society that genetically engineered food could affect everyone, even the apathetic: "What we're trying to do is bring awareness to GMOs and the health effects that they're causing and bring about some solutions about what people can do to take back their food supply," he said. "They're expecting more than 15,000 people in San Francisco alone... We want to get people working together in their communities."

Monsanto has described current research into GMO crops as "inconclusive," and has lobbied hard in Washington and around the globe to continue manufacturing lab-made foods without the oversight demanded by activists.

In March, Congress passed a biotech rider dubbed the 'Monsanto Protection Act' that effectively allows Monsanto and other companies that use GMOs to plant and sell genetically altered products even if legal action is taken against them.

Feds delay approval of new Monsanto crops over environmental concerns

D

Up until it was signed, "the USDA [US Department of Agriculture] oversaw and approved (or denied) the testing of genetically modified seeds, while the federal courts retained the authority to halt the testing or sale of these plants if it felt that public health was being jeopardized. With HR 933 now a law, however, the court system no longer has the right to step in and protect the consumer," explained James Brumley, a reporter for Investor Place.

"They own the largest share of the agribusiness, pesticides and seeds," Joanne Montana, who organized a protest in Florida, told the Gainesville Sun. "They're transnational, in food behind the scenes and a big conglomerate."



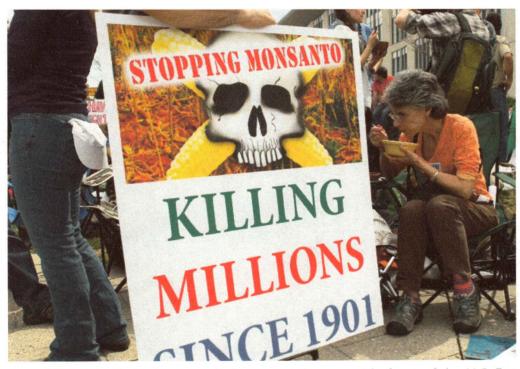
Protesters against Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) are chained to a vehicle as they block a delivery entrance to a Monsanto seed distribution facility in Oxnard, California (Reuters / Mario Anzuoni)

The 'Monsanto Protection Act' was co-authored by a senator **who has received thousands of dollars** in campaign contributions from the company — a revelation that did not surprise many, given that another important figure in Washington, Justice Clarence Thomas, served as an attorney for the corporation before he was nominated to the Supreme Court, only to eventually preside over a case involving his former employer.

But according to Food & Water Watch, the relationship between Monsanto and the government extends beyond Congress and the Supreme Court. In a statement accompanying a health report, Food & Water Watch wrote that communications uncovered by WikiLeaks detailed how "the US State Department lobbies foreign governments to adopt pro-agricultural biotechnology policies and laws, operates a rigorous public relations campaign to improve the image of biotechnology and challenges commonsense biotechnology safeguards and rules — including opposing genetically engineered (GE) food labeling laws."

With the protest approaching, organizers have accused Monsanto of going on the offensive and wrote on the event's Facebook page that the mass rallies had not been cancelled, debunking a false rumor they accused Monsanto sympathizers of spreading.

"Events are disappearing, posts are being put on city event pages that say events are being cancelled," said Tom Canal, an administrator for the March Against Monsanto Facebook page, according to the Organic Prepper blog. "In no way, shape or form, has any event been cancelled. I believe Monsanto is behind this. Some of the people on the page that are commenting have newly made profiles and seemingly those profiles were made strictly to cause problems and get a rise out of our participants on the page."



Jane Michalek (R) drinks soup during an eat-in protest in front of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in College Park, Maryland (Reuters / Gary Cameron)

In an interview with Bloomberg earlier this month, Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant portrayed those who do not agree with his business tactics as snobs: "There is this strange kind of reverse elitism: If I'm going to do this, then everything else shouldn't exist," he said. "In the US, we've got a system that works."

In their ongoing struggle to reach a wider audience through the mainstream media, anti-GMO activists have outlined a number of solutions and goals for which they are advocating, including the "labeling of GE/GMOs so that consumers can make those informed decisions easier," "further scientific research on the health effects of GE/GMOs," and, perhaps most importantly, "taking to the streets to show

the world and Monsanto that we won't take these injustices quietly."

Check back with RT throughout the weekend for the most extensive upto-the-minute coverage on the global demonstrations.



Activists of the online network "Campact" protest outside the administrative court in Braunschweig, northern Germany (AFP Photo)



### Comments (18)

Anonymous user 24.05.2013 16:03

Monsanto needs to be stopped. They are the foot of faceism stuck in the door of freedom. Keep out.

Anonymous user 24.05.2013 15:41

This has the ramifications of becoming one of mans worst creations

Anonymous user 24.05.2013 15:28

Im sick and tired of MONSANTO...Its Time for them to GO completely! We fight together it can happen!

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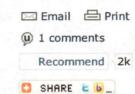
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### 7th-Grader: Obama, Most US Presidents Related

Girl, Grandfather Allegedly Create First President Family Tree Chart

POSTED: 10:58 am PDT October 23, 2009 UPDATED: 10:03 am PST February 15, 2010



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**SALINAS**, **Calif.** -- A seventh-grader and her 80-year-old grandfather are allegedly the first people to discover that President Barack Obama is related to all other U.S. presidents except one.

BridgeAnne d'Avignon, who attends Monte Vista Christian School in Watsonville, traced that Obama, and all other U.S. presidents except Martin Van Buren, are related to John "Lackland" Plantagenet, a king of England and signer of the Magna Carta.



The student and her grandfather, who is a genealogist, spent this past summer designing the first known family tree chart in history that shows the presidents' direct relationship. BridgeAnne's grandfather has researched president genealogy for 60 years.

"I'm very glad I got this done, and I think it will turn out to be a success," BridgeAnne said.

BridgeAnne has written to Obama, who she has concluded is her own 11th cousin, in hopes that she will get a chance to present the president with the chart.

BridgeAnne's U.S. Presidents Family Tree is set to be on display Oct. 28 at the Monte Vista Christian School.

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#### **Obama and Cheney, Making Connections**

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

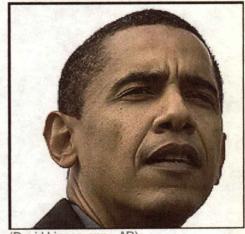
THIS JUST IN ...

#### **Obama and Cheney, Making Connections**

Vice President Cheney is related to Sen. Barack Obama.

At least that was the stunning announcement made yesterday by Lynne Cheney, who said that the very white vice president from Wyoming is in fact the eighth cousin of Obama, the Senate's only African American member. She said she discovered the link, traced back to a Huguenot who figured prominently in Maryland history, while researching her latest book.

"This is such an amazing story," Cheney said in an interview on MSNBC, "that one ancestor, a man that came to Maryland, could be responsible down the family line for lives that have taken such different and varied paths as Dick's and Barack Obama's." Cristina Allegretti, Lynne Cheney's research and project



(David Lienemann - AP)



manager at the American Enterprise Institute, said the vice president's wife did an



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#### Bush, They Say, Is Indeed a Connecticut Yankee From King Henry's Court

By STEVE LOHR, Special to the New York Times Published: July 05, 1988

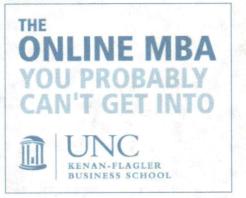
Vice President Bush may be narrowly trailing Gov. Michael S. Dukakis in the opinion polls, but he is far ahead according to another indicator of Presidential prospects: the "royalty factor."

"Going by the statistics of the past, Mr. Bush will be the next President of the United States," said Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage Ltd., the 162-year-old directory of British nobility.

Burke's Peerage today released a report tracing the Vice President's family tree to the 1400's. The study by Burke's senior genealogist, Roger Powell, and an American colleague, William Ward, found that Mr. Bush has more connections to British and European royalty than any President of the United States. Queen's 13th Cousin

For example, Mr. Bush is a 13th cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and is related to all members of the British royal family, according to Burke's genealogists. Moreover, he is related to all those who have married into the British royal family, like the Queen Mother, the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York. Mr. Bush is also related to all current European monarchs on or off the throne, including the King of Albania.

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To the unenlightened, this lofty lineage may seem worlds apart from the back-slapping, babykissing spectacle of American Presidential races. But the royalty factor cannot be easily disregarded, if the past is any guide, Burke's officials say. Of the 40 American Presidents, 13 have had a direct connection to European royalty.

The frequency with which royal blood has found its way into the White House is much higher than the share of the American population with links to British or European monarchs, which is estimated at less than 5 percent. In short, American Presidents have been at least six times more likely to have royal blood than the people who elected them.

The royalty factor, Mr. Brooks-Baker suggests, is a genetic phenomenon. "The genes or chromosomes for leaders come forward whether it's kings or presidents," he said. "You cannot hold back the genes."

In the case of the Vice President's genes, Burke's Peerage traced the Bush family tree to the 1400's. Mr. Bush is a direct descendant of King Henry VII, of one of Charles II's mistresses and of Henry VIII's younger sister, Mary, who married King Louis XII of France. His American Roots

Charles II's mistress Barbara Villiers lived from 1641 to 1706 and was a sixth cousin of the Vice

President's great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Wellington Fay, Mr. Brooks-Baker said.

Miss Villiers's liaison with the King lasted 12 years and she had seven children, of whom only five were publicy acknowledged as his. Mr. Bush's American roots were planted by Dr. Richard Palgrave, his grandfather seven times removed, who came to America in 1630, Mr. Brooks-Baker said.

According to Burke's, which has traced the genealogy of American Presidential families for years, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams were all related to Edward I. In the 20th century, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt were descended from Dutch nobility. Jimmy Carter has kinship ties to noble Scottish and English families, while President Reagan is a direct descendant of the 11th-century High King of Ireland, Brian Boru.

If elected, Mr. Bush would be the "most royal" of any American president. For now, that distinction belongs to George Washington. 'Typical Yankee Family'

In the past, Burke's has published its genealogical reports on American politicians after they are elected President. But, Mr. Brooks-Baker said, the Vice President comes from "a typical old Yankee family," which promised several royal links, so the interest of the Burke's genealogists was piqued and they went ahead before the election.

Burke's has not yet done a genealogical study of the Dukakis family tree. However, Mr. Brooks-Baker is dubious about finding anything to rival the Bush wealth of royal connections. "The son of a Greek immigrant - the chance of getting very far with him is remote," he said.

"Poor George," said Kevin Phillips, a Republican political analyst. "For an American politician trying to increase his popularity with the American public, it can't be too helpful to have the issue of royal lineage raised."

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Prince Charles claims Vlad the Impaler as ancestor

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LONDON - The truth is out: Prince Charles is related to Vlad the Impaler.

The heir to the British throne says he is related to Vlad the Impaler, the cruel 15th-Century Romanian warlord who helped inspire Bram Stoker's 1897 vampire novel Dracula.

He makes the comments on an upcoming TV show to promote his interest in protecting the forests of Romania's Transylvania region.

Charles says genealogy shows that he is related to Vlad, giving him a stake in the future of Romania. The prince has long worked to conserve the forests and has bought a home in the region.

On a visit to Romania earlier this year, he called Transylvania a national treasure because of its unspoiled landscape and centuries-old rural farming traditions.

Peter Muhly, AFP/Getty Images

Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall meet school children during a two-day visit to Northern Ireland.

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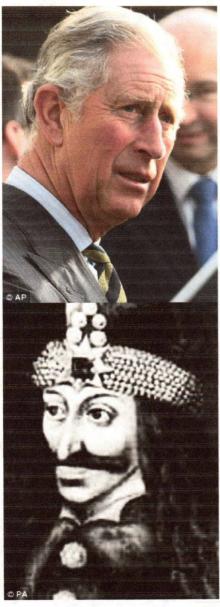
### Blue bloods: Prince Charles joins campaign to save Transylvania's forests - because of his family connections to 'Count Dracula'

By <u>Damien Gayle</u> UPDATED: 11:47 EST. 27 October 2011

Prince Charles is campaigning to save the forests of Transylvania, inspired by his ancestral links to Vlad the Impaler, the 15th century nobleman better known by his patronym, Dracula.

Rapid economic growth in Romania - which is now part of the EU - means that the forests of the Carpathian Mountains are under threat from development and logging.

The Prince is calling for the forests, some of the last untouched wilderness areas in Europe, to be protected before they are lost, like the woodland that once covered Britain.



Blood lines: Prince Charles, left, is descended from Transylvanian prince Vlad III, known by the sobriquet Vlad the Impaler and the patronym Dracula, right, through his great-grandmother, Queen Mary, wife of George V

He claims a family connection to the area through Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia, who earned the sobriquet Vlad the Impaler thanks to his favoured method of torture and execution.

October 28, 2011 11:05 AM

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# Vlad the Impaler: How is Prince Charles, Queen Elizabeth related to him?

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Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall are seen in the parade ring on the first day of the Royal Ascot horse race meeting at Ascot, England, Tuesday, June, 14, 2011.

(Credit: AP)

(CBS) In an upcoming TV show to promote his interest in Romania's Transylvania region, Britain's Prince Charles claims he is related to Vlad the Impaler, who gave rise to the Dracula vampire stories. Apparently, so is his mother, the queen.

Pictures: Prince Charles
Pictures: In Royal Circles

The heir to the British throne said genealogy shows that he is related to Vlad, giving him a stake in the future of Romania. The prince has long worked to conserve the forests and has bought a home in the Transylvania region.

The link, it appears, is his great-grandmother, Mary of Teck, who was grandmother to Britain's current ruler, Queen Elizabeth II, and was queen during the reign of King George V. A Wurttemberg princess, Mary - the woman for whom the liner Queen Mary was named - was believed descended from two of Vlad's sons.

Vlad the Impaler, the cruel 15th-century Romanian warlord who helped inspire Bram Stoker's 1897 vampire novel "Dracula," got his nickname from his favorite method of execution. His reputation for sadism and torture made him a legend in his own time. His victims have been estimated in the tens of thousands.

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